

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Barbara McKinzie

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	McKinzie, Barbara, 1954-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Barbara McKinzie,
Dates:	February 20, 2008
Bulk Dates:	2008
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:20:11).
Abstract:	Association chief executive Barbara McKinzie (1954 -) was a certified public accountant, CEO of an accounting firm and the twenty-seventh supreme basileus of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. McKinzie was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 20, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2008_021
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Association chief executive Barbara Anne McKinzie was born on January 2, 1954 in Ada, Oklahoma to Leonard T. and Johnnie M. Moses Watson. Under McKinzie's leadership the AKA Sorority Annual Boulé's revenues have increased and video telecasting was instituted to accommodate conference seating in multiple areas. In addition, the Sorority's operational and delivery systems were updated and upgraded.

McKinzie attended East Central University where she was initiated into the Eta Pi Chapter of the AKA Sorority in 1973. After receiving her B.S. degree in 1976, McKinzie went on to earn her M.A. degree from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management in 1997. In 1978, McKinzie became the Financial Advisor for AKA Sorority National President Barbara K. Phillips and served again in this capacity in 1982 under the leadership of Ms. Faye B. Bryant. She went on to become the Fourth Executive Director of the AKA Sorority in 1985. During that year, McKinzie also assumed the position of Second Secretary for the Sorority's Educational Advancement Foundation where she increased the Sorority's annual cash flow by more than \$1 million. Afterwards, in 1998, McKinzie was elected as the Sorority's International Treasurer. She also chaired the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee. Under her leadership, the Committee issued a host of recommendations that will strengthen the AKA Sorority for decades to come.

In 2000, McKinzie ran unopposed for another two-year term as International Treasurer. That following year, she was recognized for her achievements and was named the 2001 Woman of the Year by the American Biographical Institute. *The New York Network Journal* later named McKinzie one of the Top 25 Outstanding Business Women of 2002. That same year, she was elected First Vice President of the AKA Sorority thereby positioning her to be International President. In 2006, during the Sorority's convention in Detroit, she ascended to AKA's top leadership position.

McKinzie augments her commitment to AKA Sorority, Inc. by serving other organizations whose missions parallel

her passion. She became a member of the Board of Directors of Africare in 2005. Its programs primarily address health and HIV/AIDS and agricultural needs. McKinzie has also served as Comptroller for the Chicago Housing Authority.

As International President of AKA Sorority, McKinzie adopted as her signature program theme "Extraordinary Service Program", ESP, which is an acronym for Economics, Service (Sisterhood) and Partnerships. This program is achieved through five platforms focused on entrepreneurship: economic keys to success, economic strength of the black family, economics in technology (the first Undergraduate Signature Program), health resource management and economics, resulting in program funding exceeding \$3 million and two million hours of service in 2007.

She has received numerous honors in recognition of her leadership commitment and documented results. In 2006, at Stillman College's 130th Founder's Day Convocation, McKinzie received her doctor of humane letters from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

McKinzie has served as comptroller for the Chicago Housing Authority and Deputy Director of Finance and Administration for Chicago's Neighborhood Housing Services. She is currently President of BMC Consulting, a firm that specializes in developing financial strategies for corporations and non-profit entities.

McKinzie was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 20, 2008 as part of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Centennial Boulé 2008 celebration. Segments of these interviews were used in a DVD entitled *A.K.A. Sorority: A Legacy of Supreme Service*.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Barbara McKinzie was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 20, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Association chief executive Barbara McKinzie (1954 -) was a certified public accountant, CEO of an accounting firm and the twenty-seventh supreme basileus of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

McKinzie, Barbara, 1954-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

McKinzie, Barbara, 1954- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Occupations:

Association Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Barbara McKinzie, February 20, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara McKinzie, Section A2008_021_001_001, TRT: 0:29:44 ?

Barbara McKinzie was born on January 2, 1954 in Ada, Oklahoma to Johnnie Moses Watson and Leonard McKinzie, Sr. She joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA) in 1973 at East Central Oklahoma State University, and went on to serve as the organization's international treasurer and executive director. During that time, she worked with the twentieth supreme basileus, Barbara Kinard Phillips, and her successor, Faye Beverly Bryant. In 2006, McKinzie was elected as the twenty-seventh supreme basileus of AKA. She was the first former executive director to serve in the role. During her tenure, she developed the Extraordinary Service Program, which focused on entrepreneurship, financial growth, educational development, African American family structure and strengthening the requirements for undergraduate members. McKinzie reflects upon her leadership style, her greatest challenges and the lessons she learned during her administration. She also talks about the sorority's history and commitment to service.

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara McKinzie, Section A2008_021_001_002, TRT: 0:29:24 ?

Barbara McKinzie's maternal great-grandfather, James L. Armstrong, Sr. was Cherokee, and was forced to migrate via the Trail of Tears from North Carolina to Oklahoma. Her maternal great-grandmother, Elsie Moses, was a Seminole woman who owned a small farm in Ada, Oklahoma. McKinzie's parents, Johnnie Moses Watson and Leonard McKinzie, Sr., were both raised in Ada, and met in high school. They divorced a few years after McKinzie's birth, and each remarried. Her father relocated to California, while McKinzie remained in Ada with her maternal grandparents, Naomi Armstrong Moses and Jasper Moses. She began her education at the Napier Grade School, where she admired her teachers, L.Z. Black and T.L. Reid; and went on to attend Ada Junior High School and Byng High School, where she played basketball and developed an interest in history. McKinzie also talks about the future of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and her idea of a perfect sisterhood.

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara McKinzie, Section A2008_021_001_003, TRT: 0:29:11 ?

Barbara McKinzie attended Byng High School in Ada, Oklahoma, where she was an honors student, and participated in Interscholastic Meet competitions. Upon graduating in 1972, she studied for one year at Stanford University, and

then transferred to Ada's East Central Oklahoma State University. There, she joined a local chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA), where she served as treasurer and basileus. After graduating, she became a certified public accountant, and was hired as the first African American employee of Touche Ross and Co. in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She joined Deloitte Haskins and Sells in 1983, and left the company two years later to become the full time director of the AKA headquarters construction project. When the building was completed in 1987, McKinzie returned to public accounting work at the firm of Coopers and Lybrand. She also acted as the worldwide internal audit director of the Whitman Corporation for one year, before enrolling at the Kellogg School of Management in Evanston, Illinois.

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara McKinzie, Section A2008_021_001_004, TRT: 0:29:42
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Barbara McKinzie worked for the Whitman Corporation, which was the parent company of Midas, Inc., the Hussmann Corporation and PepsiCo at the time. From 1995 to 1997, she attended the Kellogg School of Management in Evanston, Illinois, while also working at the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority and Salomon Smith Barney. In 2000, McKinzie became the CFO of the Hollywood Casino Corporation, and managed the establishment of a casino location in Shreveport, Louisiana. In 2002, McKinzie moved to Chicago, Illinois to become the CFO of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County under President John H. Stroger, Jr. of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. In this capacity, she successfully balanced the organization's budget. In 2006, McKinzie was elected as the twenty-seventh supreme basileus of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She describes her family and her concerns for the African American community; and reflects upon her career, legacy, and how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara McKinzie, Section A2008_021_001_005, TRT: 0:22:10
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Barbara McKinzie narrates her photographs.